1	2	3	4
33.	Daman & Diu	87.00	0.00
34.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	130.00	0.00
35.	Lakshadweep	8.00	0.00

Irregularity in construction of roads in NE States

2756. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news article which appeared in 'The Indian Express', dated 17th March, 2002, under the heading "North East States in deals for roads to nowhere—Tender system given go-by as work is split up *ad-hoc* between a number of contractors"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and what corrective steps have been taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The roads mentioned in the news article published in 'The Indian Express' dated 17.3.2002 are State Roads. This Ministry is mainly responsible for the development and maintenanc of National Highways only.

Financing the Highway Projects

2757. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways Authority of India has initiated steps with the Infrastructure Development Finance Company to launch a mutual fund to finance the highway projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the agreement with the IDFC is likely to be finalised; and